

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, March 11, 2005

CHIEF RAMSEY REPORTS ON MPDC PERFORMANCE

In testimony this week before the DC Council's Committee on the Judiciary, Chief Ramsey reported that "the MPD has made tremendous progress in making the District of Columbia a safer and more livable city" over the past year. "I am not here today declaring victory; we still have a long way to go to achieve our goals in public safety," the Chief said during the Department's annual performance hearing. "But I can say, with both confidence and pride, that our Department made significant strides during 2004, and that these trends are continuing into 2005." Ramsey pointed to the strong reductions in crime over the past two years, including a 20 percent drop in homicides and an 11.5 percent reduction in overall crime during 2004. The Chief said the reduction in crime was due, in part, to increased enforcement activity on the part of MPDC officers. Ramsey reported that arrests grew by 15 percent last year, including a 32 percent increase in arrests of juveniles for violent crimes, and that firearm recoveries topped 2,000 during 2004. The Chief also credited the restructuring of the Police Service Areas (PSAs), completed in May 2004, for putting the Department in a "stronger position to fight crime and successfully engage the community in community policing." Finally, the Chief reported that the MPDC reached its goal of 3,800 sworn members during 2004, and that the Department has been able to put more officers on the street by reducing the number on extended sick leave or limited duty status.

- ① Read the Chief's complete statement to the Committee at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/stmts/2005/03/031005.shtm>

MARCH OFFICERS OF THE MONTH ARE HONORED

This past November, Fifth District Officers Terrence Green and Brian Glover were working the second watch, when they received a priority call for a man, wearing all black, carrying a black handgun in the 1300 block of 5th Street, NE. The officers, along with Sergeant Terry Thorne, arrived on the scene and immediately noticed people running away from the suspect. The two officers and Sergeant Thorne took cover and ordered the suspect to drop his weapon, but the suspect continued walking. The officers ordered citizens to stay clear of the suspect—a challenge given the number of people at the busy, nearby Florida Avenue market. Eventually, the suspect placed the weapon in his right front pants pocket. Officer Glover seized the moment and, with the assistance of Officer Green, ran up behind the suspect and apprehended him. Sergeant Thorne was able to retrieve the weapon and secure it. A .22 caliber, six-shot Rohm revolver was recovered, and the suspect was charged with carrying a pistol without a license. For their bravery, professionalism and team work, Officer Green, Officer Glover and Sergeant Thorne were recently honored as officers of the month at the CHAMPS Awards ceremony for March. The 5D members were among 10 MPDC sworn officers who were recognized at this month's ceremony.

- ① Read about all of their heroics at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/heroes/champs/2005/03.shtm>
- ① CHAMPS (Capital Hotels Award Metropolitan Police Service) is a monthly awards program hosted by the Hotel Association of Washington, DC. The March awards luncheon was hosted by the Washington Plaza Hotel in Northwest.
- ① Members of the public are invited to submit commendations for outstanding MPDC officers anytime, using the online form at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/citizencomplaints/file_commendation.shtm

NEW HOME FOR THE MPDC'S GAY AND LESBIAN LIAISON UNIT

The MPDC's Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit has a new home on Dupont Circle, a move designed to further enhance police services to the District's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities. Established in June 2000, the GLLU provides a range of crime prevention, community outreach and victim assistance services to the GLBT community, as well as training and support for MPDC officers. Staffed by openly gay and lesbian members of the MPDC and their allies, the unit has previously operated out of offices at Police Headquarters on Indiana Avenue, NW. The unit's new office is located in the SunTrust Bank Building at 1369-A Connecticut Avenue, NW (entrance is on the Massachusetts Avenue side of the building). SunTrust renovated and furnished the facility, and is providing the space to the District at essentially no cost. "Over the past five years, the Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit has been a highly visible and highly effective resource for our GLBT communities. The one thing the unit lacked was a base of operations, right in the community, from which to carry out its mission," said Chief Ramsey said. "Now, thanks to the generosity and support of SunTrust Bank, the GLLU has that facility." Ramsey pointed out that for the past two-and-a-half years, SunTrust Bank has provided a similar service to the MPDC's Latino Liaison Unit, which is headquartered in the SunTrust facility at 1800 Columbia Road, NW. The Chief joined DC Councilmembers, SunTrust Bank officials and other community leaders in officially cutting the ribbon on the new facility on March 11.

CIVILIAN CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN THE MPDC

The MPDC is currently accepting applications for a variety of civilian positions within the agency. Current openings include the following: three Fingerprint Examiners in the Fingerprint Analysis Branch (DS-072-07); an Information Technology Specialist in the Office of the Chief Information Officer (DS-2210-14); and an Automotive Equipment Quality Assurance Specialist in the Fleet Services Branch (DS-1901-11). The MPDC is also recruiting for several vacancies for Crossing Guards (DS-019-02/03). The closing dates, salaries, tours of duty, qualifications and other elements of the jobs vary by position. The MPDC employs several hundred civilian members, working in various administrative, technical, operational and management positions.

NEWS & NOTES

Photo Radar Warning Period. Motorists are reminded that the four new stationary photo radar speeding reduction cameras that the MPDC activated on February 18 will continue to generate only warning notices through March 20, as part of a month-long public education effort. Beginning Monday, March 21, however, actual Notices of Infraction will be mailed to the registered owners of vehicles caught speeding aggressively by the new stationary cameras. For more information, including the locations of the four new cameras, go to <http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=3075>.

St. Patrick's Day SoberRide. The Washington Regional Alcohol Program's 2005 St. Patrick's Day SoberRide service will be offered from 4 pm on Thursday, March 17 through 4 am on March 18. To receive a free cab ride home (up to a \$50 fare), call 800-200-TAXI (8294) or #8294 (TAXI) on a Cingular telephone. For details, go to <http://www.soberride.com>.

CCTV Cameras To Be Activated on March 19. As a routine public safety precaution, the MPDC is activating its network of 14 Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras for anti-Iraq War demonstrations scheduled to take place on Saturday, March 19. Exact hours of operation will be announced. For information about the MPDC's CCTV system, go to <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/CCTV.shtm>.

New FOIA Contact for MPDC. Effective March 1, 2005, all Freedom of Information Act requests involving the MPDC should be addressed to MPDC, Office of the General Counsel, 300 Indiana Ave., NW, Room 4125, Washington, DC 20001, ATTN: Vanessa Murray.

- ① For details on the GLLU, visit: <http://www.gaydc.net/gllu>
- ① Specific hours of operation for the GLLU's new office will be announced. The unit's telephone number is (202) 727-5427. The GLLU can always be reached via pager at 1-877-495-5995.

- ① The Department is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Details on the current vacancies, including the minimum requirements and application procedures, can be found online at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/civilian.shtm>
- ① For information about sworn career opportunities in the MPDC—including recruit and lateral-hire officers—go to: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/officer.shtm>

DATA BOX

Homicides	as of 3/11/05
◆ 2005: 29	
◆ 2004: 36	
◆ % Change: -19.4%	
◆ Closure Rate: 51.7% (15 closures)	
Adult Arrests	week end. 3/5/05
◆ Total: 890	
◆ Drugs: 168	
◆ Weapons: 23	
◆ Motor Vehicle Theft: 19	
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 29	
Juvenile Activity	week end. 3/5/05
◆ Arrests: 51	
◆ Curfew Violations: 0	
◆ Truants: 59	
Firearm Recoveries	as of 3/9/05
◆ March: 32	
◆ 2005 Total: 570	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 3/11/05
◆ 2005: 10	
◆ 2004: 8	
◆ % Change: +25.0%	

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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